GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:915
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2008
MELTING OF ANTARCTIC ICE SHEET
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether global warming has caused the annual ice loss from the Antarctic ice sheet to surge by 75 per cent in a decade;

(b) If so, whether this phenomenon is contributing to sea-level rise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to study its impact on Indian Coastal areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) No Sir, the Ice loss at Antarctica has not been significant compared to Arctic. It is difficult to quantify the ice loss from the Antarctic ice sheet as a whole, due to inter-annual variability and localized changes in the Antarctic sea ice extent.

(b) Since Antarctic is vast store house of ice, its melting does contribute to rise in sea level, however its contribution in the last decade has not been significant.

(c) Government has set up tidal gauges at major ports of India (Kandla, Marmagao-Goa, Cochin, Minicoy, Kavaratti, Haldia, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Machilipatnam, Ennore, Chennai, Tuticorin, Port Blair, Nancowry to name a few) for continuous monitoring of sea level along the east and west coast of India.